

Both houses promptly replied to the opening speech of the Governor. The Upper House in its address, dated March 22, promised, as was to be expected, its full cooperation in carrying out all the wishes of the King and of General Amherst, and expressed its profound gratitude to the former for all the measures he had taken to defend the colonies against their enemies, and closed with an expression of loyalty. The Lower House in its address in reply to the Governor threw down the gauntlet to him and to the upper chamber. After opening with an equivocal promise to use its best endeavors to fulfill "the Royal Expectation in a Manner the most suitable to the Circumstances of our Constituents", the address referred to the serious reprehensions upon the house contained in the Earl of Egremont's letter for its not having passed a Supply bill, an unjust criticism which the house declared was due to the failure of the Upper House to pass the Lower House Supply bill, and to provide for the support of a Provincial Agent in London to represent the cause of the people of Maryland before the Crown. An effort by the members of the Proprietary party to strike out what was to them an obnoxious final sentence of the address to the Governor, was lost by a vote of twenty-six to fifteen. This disputed concluding sentence referring to the reflections upon the Lower House, reads as follows: "And as that Reprehension is so general, we must conclude that our most Gracious Sovereign and his Ministers have not been fully and truly informed of the repeated generous Offers of the People, heretofore made by their Representatives, to raise very large Supplies for his Majesty's Service, by Bills passed for those Purposes, and constantly refused by the Upper House" (pp. 76-77).

The Journal of Accounts, carrying appropriations for all the ordinary expenses of the Province, made up by a committee of the Lower House, was adopted by the house on April 23, and sent to the Upper House. Here it was promptly rejected, as it had been at successive sessions for the past six years, because it did not include the salary of the clerk of the Council, back pay for the militia, and certain other disputed items, although there were no messages exchanged between the houses at this session as to the reasons for its rejection. The struggle between the houses over the Journal of Accounts will be found dealt with at length in this introduction (lviv-lvi). A joint committee composed of members of both houses was appointed to examine the accounts of the Loan Office, or Paper Currency Office, and to report upon its condition. The reports of this committee are summarized in another section of this introduction (pp. lx-lxiv).

The Supply bill, or Assessment bill, first came up in the Lower House on March 20, 1762, when the house took under consideration the recommendations contained in the Governor's speech made at the opening of the session, when he transmitted the letters from the Earl of Egremont and Sir Jeffrey Amherst directing that the Assembly be called together so as to provide Provincial troops for His Majesty's Service (pp. 2-5). Votes were then taken in the house as to what should be the scope of these military measures (pp. 81-83, 85-89, 99-101), which showed that the anti-Proprietary party still held the whip hand, although by a slim majority. The house ordered that a Supply